

# SUPPORTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH



FEBRUARY 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Derek Fullerton  
MHOA President

### Recreational Marijuana and Public Health

With the passing of Ballot Question # 4, State and Local Public Health Officials, are scrambling to plan accordingly for this new law that will definitely affect public health in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Prior to the election, MHOA issued an informational

public health letter to local public health departments to inform them on public health concerns related to the legalization of marijuana. In November, the ballot passed.

*So as local health officials, what is our role at this point?* Is it a wait and see period until the Cannabis Control Commission is formed under MDPH? I would personally say NO. As a local health official I would recommend that we be the catalyst(s) to start a recreational marijuana planning committee (RMPC) in our communities. (You're probably saying, yeah right, with all the time I have; we are all

stretched!" in our positions as health officials!)

The key here is to set up a "TEAM:" where everyone is doing a piece of the pie. For example, the community I work for, I organized and steered an RMPC committee made up of Town Administrator, Planner, Building Commissioner, Police Chief, Fire Chief, School Superintendent, and myself;; Public Health Director. Together we just initiated the conversation on impacts to the community, departments, concerns, etc. We generated ideas around topics such as moratoriums, bans/opt out, ordinances,

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## MHOA REPRESENTATION

(CLICK NAME FOR EMAIL)

### OFFICERS

[Derek Fullerton](#) -President  
[Sam Wong](#) - Vice President  
[Sigalle Reiss](#) - Secretary  
[Steven Baccari](#)- Comptroller

### STAFF

[Doug Halley](#) - Treasurer  
[Kate Kokko](#) -Executive Administrator  
[Ruth-Ellen Sandler](#) -Member Services  
[Sarah McColgan](#) -Tobacco Control Director  
[Greg Erickson](#) - Webmaster

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Regional Representatives**  
[Beverly Hirschhorn](#)-Region 1  
[Stephanie Bacon](#) - Region 2  
[Rae Dick](#) - Region 3  
[Julia Junghanns](#) -Region 4A  
[Matthew Brennan](#)-Region 4B  
[Regina Hanson](#) - Region 4C  
[Thomas McKean](#) - Region 5

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[Robin Chapell](#)  
[Ruth Clay](#)  
[Richard Day](#)  
[Terence Hayes](#)  
[Kathleen MacVarish \(BU\)](#)  
[Donna Moultrup](#) (Retired)  
[J.David Naparstek](#) (Retired)

[Claude-Alix Jacob](#)- NACCHO President

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENTLY RETIRED/

### RETIRING PUBLIC HEALTH LEGENDS (SEE PG 3 & 9)



SANDY COLLINS

Town of Westford



RICHARD DAY

Town of  
Chelmsford

LIKE US! JOIN US!



[WWW.MHOA.COM](http://WWW.MHOA.COM)

## FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, & MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR



**Sam Wong**  
Vice President  
Conference Chair

Along with being Vice President, Sam serves as the MHOA Educational Conference chair.

Annual Conference Update:

### The 50th Annual MHOA Educational Conference

will be held:

Nov 15-17 2017

at the **Sea Crest Beach Hotel**

in Falmouth, MA

Secretary's Message:

I want to congratulate two of our Executive Board members on becoming Local Public Health Fellows through the **Local Public Health Institute** – Sam Wong,

Vice President and Rae Dick, Executive Board member.

You both contribute to local public health in many ways from fostering students to contributing to educational content and pursuing new avenues to advance public health in the Commonwealth and your communities. Thank you and congratulations!

We are always looking for pictures for our website. If you have any photos please email them to me at [sreiss@mhoa.com](mailto:sreiss@mhoa.com).



**Sigalle Reiss**  
Secretary



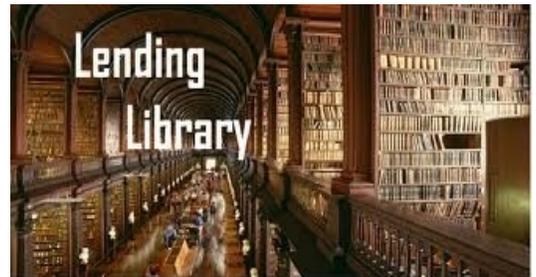
**Ruth Ellen Sandler**  
MHOA Member Services  
Coordinator



Click here for membership **FORM!**

Do not forget about the upcoming **Quarterly Educational Meeting** on March 16th! **The topic for this month is Cape Cod Drinking Water Contamination and PCE Use by Dry Cleaners** The registration form can be found here on [MHOA.COM](http://www.mhoa.com)

Information about annual DEP and Community Sanitation Trainings can be found on Pages 6 & 7.



The MHOA Lending Library is always open!

A listing of available books and their descriptions can be found at <http://www.mhoa.com/library/>. Books are available for renewable terms of three months. Rules for lending are also available on the MHOA Library website. Requests should be sent via email to [Kkokko@MHOA.com](mailto:Kkokko@MHOA.com)

Books are shipped via USPS and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return.

# MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES ASSOCIATION (MAPHN)\*



**Terri Khoury**  
MAPHN Vice President  
MHOA At Large Rep

Save the date!  
**MAPHN Annual Conference**  
**May 3&4**  
**Nantasket Beach Resort**  
**Hull, MA**



MAPHN Celebrated 20 Years in 2016! [Click Here](#) to read our fall newsletter!

\* Asterisked organizations with blue borders are part of the Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH)

## MHOA congratulates Sandy Collins, R.N. on her retirement and wishes her well in Sunny Florida!!

**Sandy Collins, R.N.**, was the Health Director for the Town of Westford and the Director of the Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps (a 560 member regional response unit). Before her retirement in January of 2017, she had practiced public health for over 35 years. 31 of those years were spent in the Town of Westford). She was a founding member of the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses (MAPHN), of which she was elected first president and continues to sit on the Executive Board for the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA). In the fall of 2016, MHOA Executive Committee Member nominated Ms. Collins for Emeritus membership.

During her career, Sandy represented local health on numerous state committees including the Coalition of Local Public Health, the Regionalization Workgroup and the MRC Statewide Steering Committee. She also chaired the Local/ State Advisory Council from 1997-2012. She chaired many local health committees in Westford and taught public health courses at many state and national conferences.

Over the years, she was recognized and received multiple state and national health awards for her work in public health including:

- Public Health Nurses Award, Mass Health Officers Association 1998, 2005
- Public Service Award, Mass. Association of Health Boards 2001
- Public Health Nurse Award, MAPHN 2001
- Presidents Award, MHOA 2003,2009
- John D Crowley Award- MHOA 2016
- National Certificate of Merit- NEHA- 2016

**Sandy, we wish you the best! You've done so much for local public health that is known and that many are not aware of!** You will be missed by all public health organizations; for sure by the MHOA Executive Committee and members whom you have served alongside for many, many years! We hope you are enjoying your "Five O'Clock Somewhere" in Sunny Florida!





**Katherine Kokko**  
MHOA Executive  
Administrator

## Congratulations to the Communities that Received Funding for Winter Internship Projects!

MHOA is pleased to announce that three local health internship projects were funded for the Winter Break 2017 Term!

**Brookline:** Development of fact sheets and interpretive guides on requirements of recently adopted plastic and compostable bag by-law with outreach and education to regulated and unregulated industry and a resource listing of vendors who supply compliant bags.

**Burlington:** Organization of a Community Health Fair & Update of Hazardous Materials Registration List.

**Wayland:** Review of existing and model regulations for private wells, as well as state policy or guidelines concerned with the same.

*Projects are scored based on clarity of objectives, value of experience to the intern and likelihood of expanding local capacity.*

**Coming Soon MORE MHOA Funding for  
Summer Local Health Department Internships!**

For the last two years, MHOA has been making it possible for local health departments to provide small stipends to their graduate and undergraduate interns. Funding allows health departments to host interns during the students' winter and summer breaks. Local communities are responsible for identifying a project and an intern to carry out the work funded. Internships are for a total of 50 hours. *Funding is provided through a block grant received from the MDPH Office of Local and Regional Health.*

### MHOA IMMUNIZATION AWARD: DEDHAM

In our last newsletter, we provided background on the Gail Douglas Award and MHOA's decision to make the funds (provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease's receipt of that award) available to enhance and create new immunization capacity locally. MHOA received applications from local health departments and funded The Town of Dedham's project to bring pneumococcal vaccine to home bound seniors and others with limited support systems (including transportation, financial and other barriers). The project would also



provide an opportunity to assess the need for continued immunization services and other health department programs. The Dedham Health Department used Immunization Award funds to purchase a "Cool Cube" mobile vaccine cooler and Fridge-tag 2 temperature monitoring kit, as well as 10 doses of Prevnar 13 vaccine. At this time, 9 total doses of Prevnar vaccine has been administered with one remaining vaccine available. Utilizing the mobile "Cool Cube" vaccine cooler, the Prevnar vaccine has been offered throughout this seasons mobile flu clinics at 11 locations including flu clinics, schools



and elderly housing complexes. The Health Department continues to offer the Prevnar Vaccine during Blood Pressure Clinics and with interactions with the public.

## LOCAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LSAC)

CDC released the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the next round of PHEP Grants on February 3, 2017. This will start the next round of a 5 year agreement to fund planning activities. The initial review does not reveal any drastic changes to our planning and LSAC will be concentrating on the work plan and funding distribution of the rest of February and March. It is anticipated that concurrence votes will be due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

As part of its Strategic Planning Workshops, LSAC will also be looking at whether the makeup of the group should change. There are openings currently for Regions 3C, 4A, 5A, and 5B.



**Tom Carbone**  
LSAC Chairman  
MHOA Active Ex Officio



**Derek Fullerton**  
MHOA President

## Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH)

In the year end of 2016 and continuing in 2017, CLPH has been working on its updated strategic plan. CLPH met with Dr. Monica Bharel, Commissioner of DPH, to relay the strategic plan in order to align partnerships and collaboration between the CLPH organizations and the State DPH. The strategic plan outlines the following goals:

- ▶ Communicate effectively with state and local entities to strengthen local public health
- ▶ Advocate for Workforce Competency
- ▶ Increase local understanding and visibility of local public health
- ▶ Increase and Promote Visibility & Effectiveness of CLPH activity

*The Coalition for Local Public Health, formed in 2002, represents the 5 statewide public health organizations (MHOA, MAPHN, MEHA, MPHA, MAHB). Leadership of each of the organization meets monthly to identify issues and strategies to best advocate, promote and strengthen local health within MA. Collectively we represent over 3000 members. MHOA has participated in the Coalition since the group formed.*

*CLPH Member Organizations are identified throughout this newsletter with an asterisk and blue border.*



**Sarah McColgan-MHOA Tobacco Control Director**

### *Tobacco Control & Prevention*

Sarah's role as Tobacco Control Director of MHOA is to provide technical assistance and trainings for Boards of Health and assist with the development of training and education related to tobacco control issues.

### **MTCP Celebrates 25 Years of Making Smoking History**

2017 is the 25th anniversary of the Massachusetts Cessation and Prevention Program. Some recent highlights of the program include:

- ▶ 146 municipalities have banned the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies
- ▶ 131 municipalities have increased the price of cigars frequently purchased by youth to \$2.50
- ▶ 122 municipalities have increased the minimum legal sale age to 21
- ▶ 75 municipalities have capped the number of tobacco permits
- ▶ 73 municipalities have restricted the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult only retail tobacco stores

**Another sign of Public Health in action!**

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials



**Claude-Alix Jacob NACCHO PRESIDENT**

NACCHO President Claude-Alix Jacob shares, Claude has [his own blog](#) on the President's Corner at NACCHO!

In addition, Claude wants to make sure that all local health officials know about the following resources and opportunities!

**2016 National Profile of Local Health Departments (now available)** - This study presents the newest data on local health department funding, workforce, programs, and partnerships. Special thanks go to our MHOA members who completed this survey last

year. <http://nacchoprofilestudy.org/reports-publications/> (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

## **MHOA Education & Training**

To Register click [here](#)

### **Educational Quarterly Meeting:**

### **Cape Cod Drinking Water & PCE Use by Dry Cleaners**

March 16th

Devens Common Center

31 Andrews Parkway

10am-1pm

To Register visit [MHOA.com](http://MHOA.com)

Dr. Ann Aschengrau will describe her epidemiological research on the neurotoxic effects of prenatal and childhood exposure to PCE-contaminated drinking water among residents of Cape Cod Massachusetts. From 1968 through 1980 widespread contamination of public drinking water supplies with PCE occurred in this region. The source of the contamination was a vinyl liner applied to the inner surface of water distribution pipes.

Use of perchloroethylene (PCE) by dry cleaners presents potential hazards to workers, neighbors, and the environment. PCE waste must be managed as hazardous and can be a source of soil and groundwater contamination. In addition, dry cleaners are often co-located in buildings with other businesses and/or residential units creating potential indoor air quality problems. Joy will discuss some alternatives to PCE for garment cleaning.

### DEP Annual Seminars:

March 7th—CERO, Devens  
March 9th—SERO, Hyannis  
March 21st—NERO, Peabody

**Registration for DEP Seminars can be found [HERE](#).**

### Community Sanitation

#### Annual Seminars:

April 4th—Marlborough  
April 6th—Hadley  
April 11th—Dedham  
April 13th—Hyannis

**Registration for Community Sanitation Seminars can be found [HERE](#).**

### MA Adult Immunization Conference: April 25th

The 22nd Annual Massachusetts Adult Immunization Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Best Western Royal Plaza [Hotel](#), Marlborough, MA.

*Did You Know?? There are 48 online "On Your Time" training modules. Visit the LPHI online training website by clicking [here](#)*



\*The Massachusetts Environmental Health Association

(MEHA) is a subsidiary of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). MEHA's main concerns are the support, representation, and knowledge base training for the local environmental health professional in MA.

MEHA has been working on a 2016 Merged Food Code (for review purposes) and has solicited support for updated Choke Save legislation. For more information, visit the MEHA website at: <http://www.mehaonline.net/>

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

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**SACCHO Annual Leadership Conference** - February 27 - March 1, Washington, DC. Derek Fullerton and I will be attending the annual leadership conference that will include visits to Capitol Hill to advocate for local public health.

**2017 Preparedness Summit** - April 25 - 28, Atlanta, GA. This year's theme is *Forces of Change: Capabilities, Innovation & Partnerships*. Early Bird discount registrations are available until **Friday, March 17**. <http://preparednesssummit.org/>

**2017 NACCHO Annual Conference** - July 11-13, Pittsburgh, PA. This year's theme is **Public Health Revolution: Bridging Clinical Medicine and Population Health**. Each year, this serves as the largest gathering of local health officials. *Register today!* <http://www.nacchoannual.org/about/>



**John Coulon**  
MHOA Representative  
for the Massachusetts  
Food Safety Education  
Partnership

*MAPFSE is looking forward to staffing a booth at:*

The New England Food Show at the Boston Convention & Exposition Center  
February 26th-28th

<https://nefs.restaurant.org/Home>



The mission of the [Massachusetts Partnership for Food Safety Education](#) (MPFSE) is to provide food workers and consumers with easy access to food safety information, education and training through collaboration and communication among partners, and coordination of resources and services, thus ensuring the safety of our food supply.

## FOOD ESTABLISHMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Food Establishment Advisory Committee (FEAC) (originally scheduled for March, 2017) is being re-scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Massachusetts Restaurant Association (MRA) Conference Room located at 333 Turnpike Road, Suite 102 in Southborough, MA



**Rae Dick**  
MHOA Region 3 Rep  
FEAC Representative



America's first  
public health museum!  
[www.publichealthmuseum.org/](http://www.publichealthmuseum.org/)

*"We have the opportunity and obligation to lead and act in our local communities now that recreational marijuana is legal. Before we are chasing the issues, similar to chasing the tobacco industry."*

**Derek Fullerton**  
MHOA  
President

## RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA CON'T FROM COVER PAGE

bylaws, regulations, marijuana cafes, employee policies, etc. The key part to this was everyone has a role, not just public health!

MHOA provided a public health informational letter to members prior to the passage of Ballot Question #4. The letter outlines concerns such as that marijuana can be addictive,

the concern on the high concentration of marijuana products related to negative health consequences, long term negative consequences for kids, and that marijuana use/dependency is associated with addiction of other drugs (sources, see letter), and other concerns. To see the full letter, [click here](#). After the ballot passed, MHOA provided a letter of concern and recommendations

to Governor Baker and the State House Senators and Representatives. The letter outlined public health recommendations for Opt-In vs. Opt Out, Homegrowing, Medical to recreational use, edibles, Marketing and advertising, public consumption, taxation, etc. To see the full letter, [click here](#)

# LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE (LPHI)\*



**Kathleen Macvarish**  
**LPHI Director**  
**MHOA Active Ex-Officio**



**LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH**  
INSTITUTE OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Strengthening Local Public Health Through Training & Education

*The mission of the Local Public Health Institute (Institute) is to improve public health and preparedness capabilities and the health of the residents of the Commonwealth by creating, implementing, and sustaining workforce development activities for local public health and other public health system partners. Local public health professionals are busier than ever, and their training needs are more complex. In order to make the training accessible statewide, the Institute leverages a variety of training delivery methods, including traditional classroom trainings, asynchronous online modules, live webinar sessions, and blended formats.*

For a full list of Institute offerings, please go to our [Training](#) page.

### Management Course

[Managing Effectively in Today's Public Health Environment](#) has begun for the 2016 -17 Class. With 55 participants from Local Public Health across the Commonwealth and a large cohort from the Boston Public Health Commission, this course promises to be one of the best yet. The course will run from November 2016 to the end of March 2017. We gratefully thank all the organizations which are supporting this course, including MHOA. MHOA supports the Management Course using block grant funds provided by the Office of Local and Regional Health.

### MA PHIT Housing Course - FULL !!

The MA PHIT Housing course will be held on May 10th, 11th and 16th in Acton. This comprehensive course consists of 3 days of classroom instruction, written examination at the conclusion of day 3, 5 supervised field training inspections and a final computer based virtual inspection and assessment. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will have a working knowledge of Chapter 2 of the State Sanitary Code. Course registration is already full but LPHI wants to spread the word about this important course and its importance in building local capacity one inspector at a time!

*In our next newsletter, we will be giving tribute to another long time member who is retiring,*

*Richard Day!*

\* Asterisked organizations with blue borders are part of the Coalition for Local Public Health (CLPH)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) was formed to meet a local need. The foundations of MHOA began in 1950, when a group of health officials from cities and towns north of Boston began meeting together several times a year on a voluntary basis for the purpose of contributing their experiences for a better understanding and servicing of local health department practice and administration. This group became known as the North Metropolitan Health Officers and Agents Association. State Health Department officials took an interest and attended their meetings.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Massachusetts Health Officers Association is to assist and support staff of local health departments in meeting their statutory responsibilities to the public through programs of education, technical assistance, representation, and resource development, and by providing educational and informational programs to the general public on public health topics.

### **Goals**

To be recognized as and regarded by members and other agencies as an effective professional group representing and advocating for local public and environmental health

To promote and foster high standards of professionalism among local health department staff

To work closely with national, state, local, and environmental health agencies to improve public health practice

### **Objectives**

To keep members abreast of new and current public and environmental health topics and issues  
To maintain a Resource Lending Library

To maintain an internet and email site on the world wide web

To monitor and advocate for legislation affecting health and environmental issues

To offer an annual scholarship to a member or member's family embarking on or enhancing a career in public or environmental health

To present annual awards for outstanding leadership, extraordinary service, and distinguished contributions to local health practice

To promote student internship opportunities

To provide timely, pertinent and cost-effective educational programs

To serve on national and state committees that foster collaboration for the promotion of our ideals

***SUPPORTING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH***